

polyether, and the compound in the conjugate has an excitation wavelength of 630 nm or more and/or 450 nm or less] the connector, and the connector comprises an acidic ester, an acidic amine bond or an enane bridge.

2. (Amended) The conjugate [according to] of claim [1] 13, [characterized in that] wherein the serum albumin [is] comprises a human serum albumin.

3. (Amended) The conjugate [according to] of claim [1] 14, [characterized in that] wherein the polyether [is] comprises a polyethylene glycol.

4. (Amended) The conjugate [according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that several carriers are present] of Claim 1 wherein the conjugate comprises a plurality of carriers.

5. (Amended) The conjugate [according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that] of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent compound comprises an acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group or an aldehyde group.

6. (Amended) The conjugate [according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that] of claim 15, wherein the excitation wavelength is 630 to 850 nm.

7. (Amended) The conjugate [according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that] of claim 15, wherein the excitation wavelength is 320 to 450 nm.

8. (Amended) The conjugate [according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that] of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent compound [is derived from] comprises a porphyrin, a porphyrin derivative, a chlorin, a chlorin derivative, a bacteriochlorin, a bacteriochlorin derivative, a chlorophyll, a chlorophyll derivative, a phthalocyanine, a phthalocyanine derivative, a carboxy cinnamic acid, a carboxy cinnamic acid, a carboxyfluorescein, a carboxyfluorescein derivative, an acridic acid, an acridic acid derivative, a coumaric acid, a coumaric acid derivative [or] an indocyanine green or an indocyanine green derivative [as well as the derivatives thereof].

9. (Amended) The conjugate [according to any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that several fluorescent compounds are present] of claim 1, wherein the conjugate comprises a plurality of fluorescent compounds.

10. (Amended) A method of producing [a] the conjugate [according to any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that] of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent compound and the carrier are covalently bonded thereby forming [an acidic ester or acidic amide bond] the connector.

Please add new the following new claims:

--12. (New) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a protein.

13. (New) The conjugate of claim 12, wherein the protein comprises a serum albumin.

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canceled.

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